

CREATING A “PICTURE OF A LIFE” FOR TRANSITIONING YOUTH WITH DD IN FOSTER CARE

SONORAN UCEDD
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ADDPC Meeting – November 1, 2013

Child Welfare – What we know

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- There are over 500,000 children in foster care in the US
- Studies purport anywhere from 20 – 60% of foster children have some level of disability
- As of March 2013 there are 14,314 children in the child welfare system in AZ
- As of October 2013, there are over 485 children who are served by the AZ Division of Children, Youth and Families (child welfare system) and Division of Developmental Disabilities (state DD agency)

History of Negative Transition Outcomes for Foster Youth

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- ❑ More likely to drop out of high school
- ❑ Less likely to attain post-secondary education
- ❑ 22% experience homelessness throughout adulthood
- ❑ 33% have no health insurance
- ❑ Only 43% gain employment with 47% of the employed earning wages below the FPL
- ❑ By the age of 19, 50% of young women have been pregnant
- ❑ By age 19, 38% have been arrested

National Council on Disability (2008). *Youth with Disabilities in the Foster Care System: Barriers to Success and Proposed Policy Solutions.*

Creating a “Picture of a Life” Project

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□ What is it?

- A collaborative state-wide project funded by the Arizona DD Planning Council and managed by the Sonoran UCEDD and DDD
- Specifically geared to young adults age 16-18 with developmental disabilities making their transition into adulthood and aging out of the child welfare system – targeting non-ALTCS youth first

Goals of the Project

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Improve transition outcomes for foster youth with DD

- Develop PCPs built on strengths, dreams and choices of the young adult
- Increase young adult knowledge about all the options available to them as they transition into adulthood
- Build on strengths of informal and formal supports and community networks to support young adults in their transition
- Support youth to attend self-advocacy & determination trainings through partnerships with ABIL & DIRECT

Goals of the Project

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- Train facilitators – grow the cadre of people able to facilitate plans in AZ
- Ultimately, this model project will help to improve services for youth with DD exiting foster care in Arizona by offering a mechanism for youth to exercise meaningful choice about their living arrangements, work life, social networks and services

Year 1

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- 10 youth enrolled in DCYF/DDD
 - ▣ Maricopa – 7, Pima – 2, Cochise – 1
 - ▣ Completion of person-centered plans & follow up
- Trained 10 PCP Facilitators
 - ▣ 2-day in person training with Michael Smull
 - ▣ Four 2-hour webinars with Michael Smull – TA
 - ▣ Monthly conference calls with program team
- Evaluation
 - ▣ Pre & Post planning surveys for both youth and facilitators
 - ▣ Analysis of webinar transcripts

Completed Surveys

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Youth:

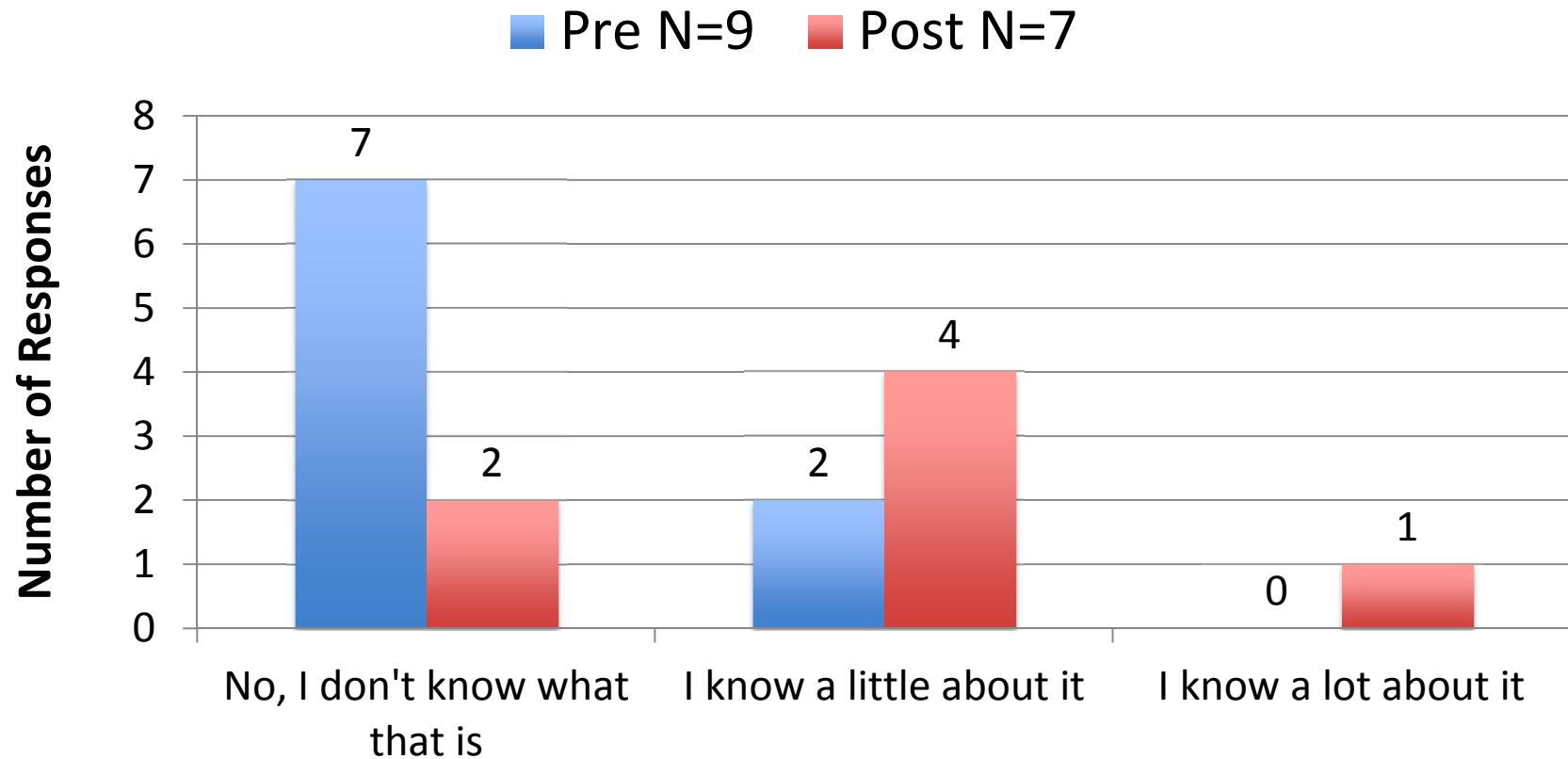
- Pre = 9
- Post = 7

Facilitator:

- Pre = 9 (project director served as facilitator, recused from evaluation)
- Post = 6 (3 facilitators dropped out)

Do you know about person centered planning?

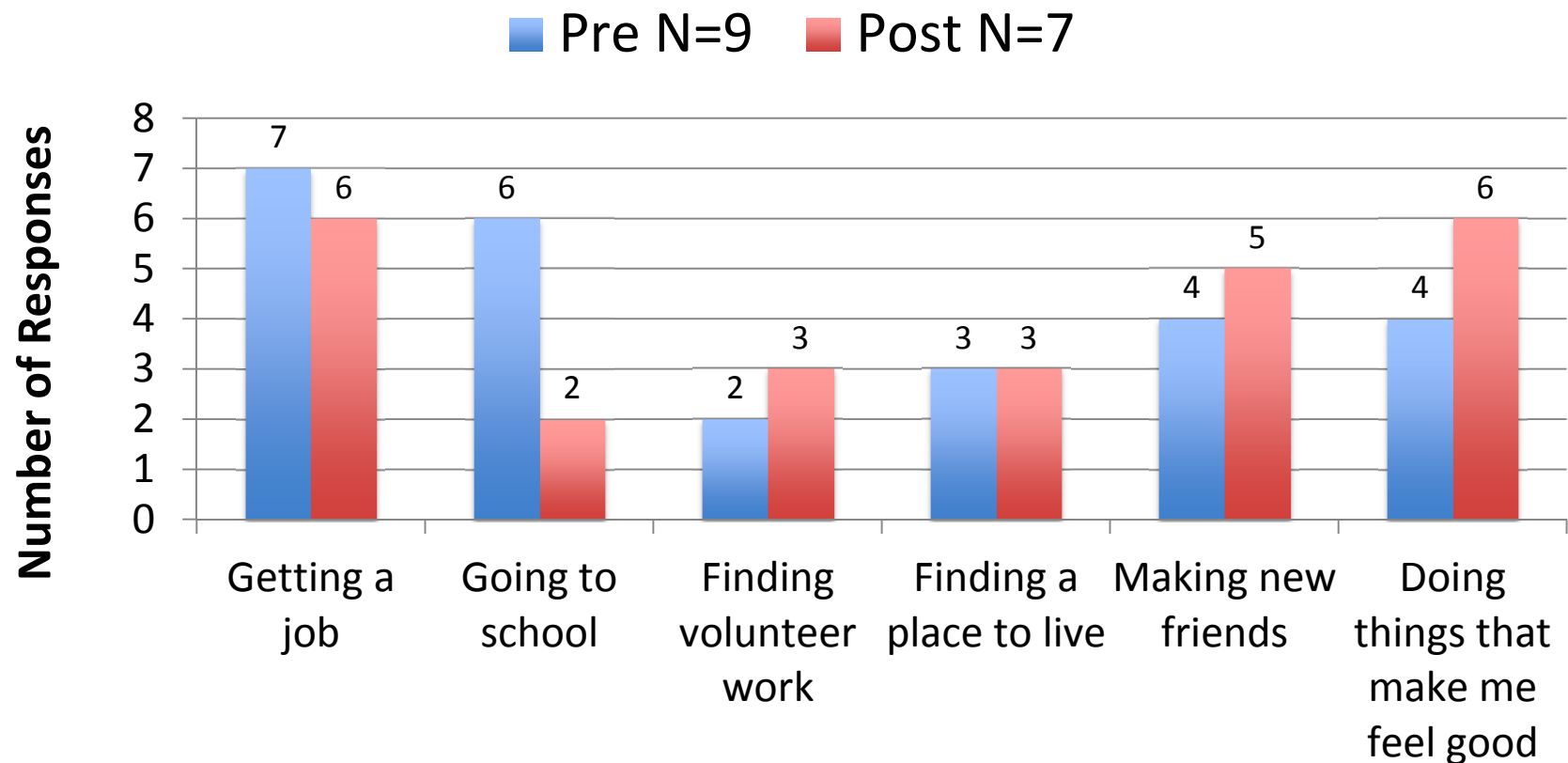
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PRE: What kinds of plans do you have right now?

POST: What kind of things are in your PCP that you want to happen?

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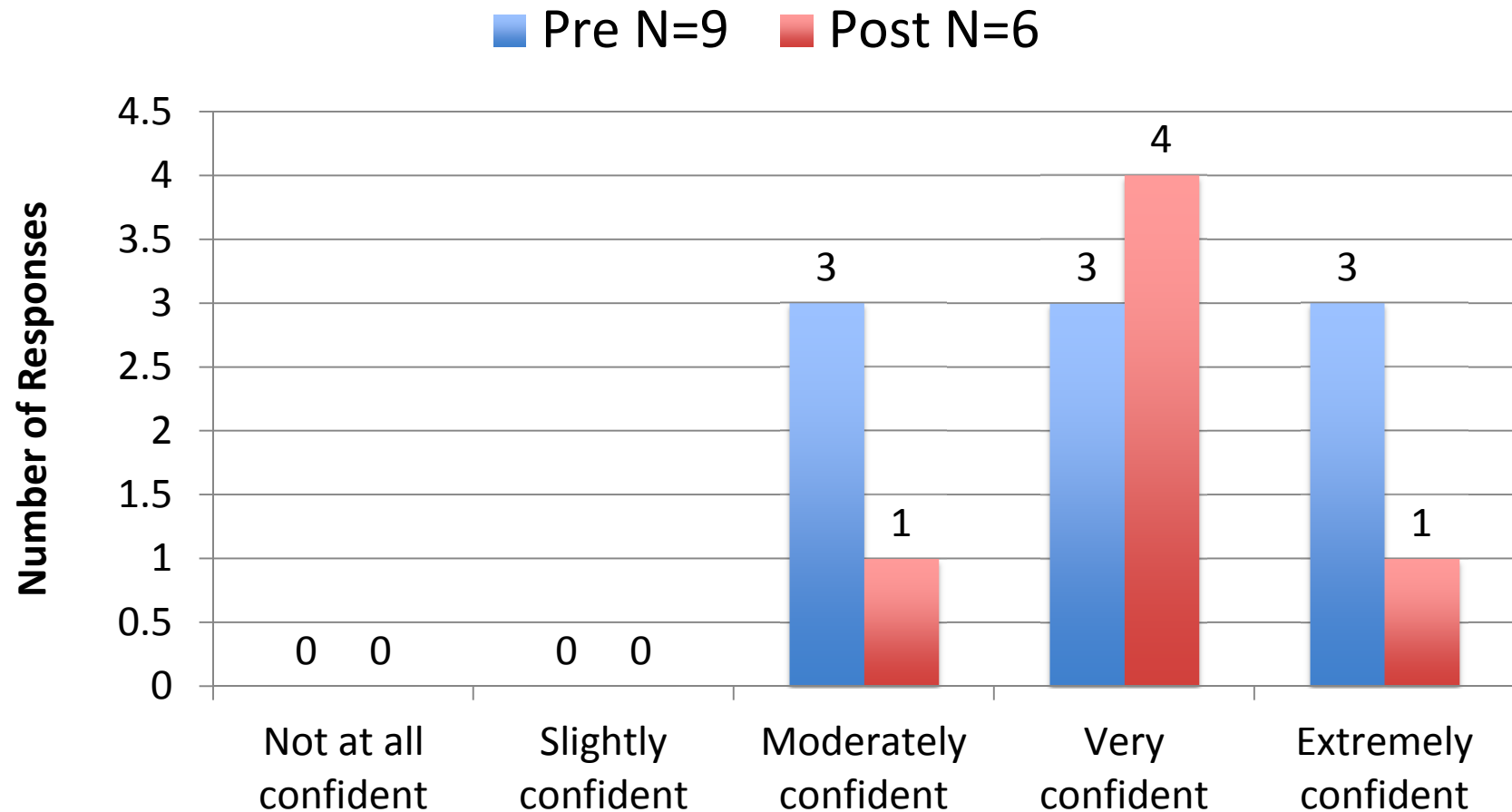
Additional Outcomes

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Outcome	Measures by # of Youth	Percentage
PCP has concrete steps for obtaining permanent living arrangements	7	70%
PCP has concrete steps to plan for future employment incorporating job exploration and post-secondary education opportunities	8	80%
Youth are better prepared for life after high school	5	71%

Facilitators: How confident do you feel about taking action steps for implementing the youth's vision?

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Facilitator Trainings

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Facilitators Liked:

- Youth participant as co-trainer
- Interaction among consumer and staff
- Real life examples
- Topic: healing environment
- Sharing “thorny issues”

Areas For Improvement:

- Technical issues
- Suggested topics:
 - ▣ Enhancing partnerships
 - ▣ Understanding resources
 - ▣ Empowering team members
 - ▣ More on healing environment for abuse/trauma/mental health

Challenges

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- Nature of DCYF placement
 - ▣ Complicated personal histories – trauma, abuse
 - ▣ Issues of victims becoming perpetrators
 - ▣ Issues surrounding reunification with family members who were abusers or practice unsafe lifestyles
- Enrolled in multiple service systems: DDD, DCYF, BH, special education
 - ▣ Obtaining full participation and everyone on the same page
- Circle of support limited to paid professionals
- Time and effort needed to complete plans

Year 2

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Expansion of Activities

▣ Facilitators

- Trained 30 new facilitators on October 9 & 10 – 20 applied to be facilitators for the project
- Provide 4 webinars with Michael Smull

▣ Youth

- Follow along with YR1 cohort (plan implementation & tracking outcomes)
- 10 new youth – PCPs
- New participant group orientation
- Provide self-advocacy & self-determination workshops through ILCs

Year 2

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Expansion of Activities

▣ Evaluation

- YR 1 Cohort – 2 follow up surveys for youth to track outcomes and 1 end of year survey for their facilitators
- YR 2 Cohort – Pre & Post planning surveys for both youth and facilitators
- Webinar transcript analysis

▣ Partnership/Collaboration

- ABIL and DIRECT Center for Independence
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Strengthen DCYF & Behavioral Health

Questions?

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